

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Greenberg, Hays, Love, Uchima, and Chairperson Mayeda.

Absent: Commissioner Reilly.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, Park Services Manager Carson, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, and Administrative Analyst Orpe.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Uchima led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the April 10, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Reilly).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

The Commission welcomed Torrance Youth Council members Minji Kim, Diana Im, and Anna Spallino.

Minji thanked Chairperson Mayeda for participating on the Beat the Odds scholarship selection committee and for attending the Awards Banquet.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL OF THE LOCATION OF THE VERIZON WIRELESS CELLULAR SITE AT SUR LA BREA PARK

Commissioner Love recused herself from this item.

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background and presented staff's recommendation that the Commission approve the location of the Verizon Wireless cellular site at Sur La Brea Park. He noted that the location, shown in the aerial photograph in Attachment A, is just south of the La Casita clubhouse and is on a slope. He stated that the area is non-usable space and would not impact any active or passive recreational space. He described the east and south elevations in Attachments B, C, and D and pointed out that more than half of the equipment storage facility would be subterranean. He called attention to supplemental correspondence from Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association President John Bailey and stated that meeting notification fliers were posted and mailed to all residents within 500 feet of the park.

Sue Siani, West 234th Street, voiced her support for the proposal and thanked City staff and Commissioners for listening and paying attention to residents' concerns.

Andy Grieco, Cabrillo Avenue, inquired how they planned to keep people off the top of the storage facility.

Community Services Director Jones stated that kids might climb on it, that it is not dangerously high, and that there would be a fence along the north side of it.

Lowell Hardison, West 236th Street, questioned the elevation of existing trees and stated that he is looking forward to improvements to be made at the park.

Director Jones stated that the recommendation to City Council would be for the first five years of revenue to be dedicated for Sur La Brea Park improvements.

Robert Perez, Verizon Wireless, described tree elevations from sea level, explaining that the cell tower would be above the other trees but the same relative height due to the slope. He added that it is necessary for the cell tower to be higher than the trees in order for the signal to work.

Commissioner Greenberg thanked Verizon Wireless for working with the community to reach a solution that meets the needs of the City, vendor, and residents.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Director Jones stated that landscaping of the slope was not part of the lease agreement with Verizon. He suggested having Park Services determine if there is need or desire to improve the area.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to approve staff's recommendation for the location of the cellular site at Sur La Brea Park. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Reilly).

7B. CITY BUDGET UPDATE

Commissioner Love returned to the meeting room.

Community Services Director Jones reminded Commissioners that Budget Workshops will be held on May 14 and 21, 2013 in City Council Chambers. He stated that the workshops are an opportunity for residents to provide input on how the budget should address programs that are important to them.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. RECOMMENDATION TO OPPOSE AB-5 (AMMIANO).HOMELESSNESS

Community Services Director Jones reported that the City works with a lobbyist in Sacramento for State legislation and a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. for federal legislation. He stated that the City is taking a more active role on proposed legislation, many of them unfounded mandates, which could impact how the Department operates and maintains City parks.

Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that the City has put forward various letters of support and opposition throughout the year and that it often follows along with professional organizations such as League of California Cities and California Parks and Recreation Society. He noted that legislation is analyzed through three main areas: 1) does it affect local control; 2) does it have a fiscal impact on the City; and 3) does the measure affect public safety.

He provided information regarding Assembly Bill 5 that would redefine homelessness as a protected class to protect the homeless from discrimination. He stated that the bill would require the City to provide shower facilities 24 hours a day and would require the Police Department to log and report all interactions. He maintained that the bill provides no long-term solutions for homelessness and asked the Commission to submit a letter of opposition to Assembly Member Ammiano.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission send a letter opposing Assembly Bill 5. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Reilly).

8B. RECOMMENDATION TO OPPOSE SB 443 (WALTERS). ORGANIZED CAMPS

Administrative Analyst Orpe discussed proposed legislation SB 443 that would revise statutes and definitions related to the regulation of "organized camps" and would fiscally impact how the Department operates its day camp programs. He stated that the bill would sweep city programs into a regulatory matrix that would result in new unfunded costs to meet proposed requirements. He stated that Mayor Scotto sent a letter of opposition to Senator DeLeon and requested that the Commission do the same.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission concur with staff recommendation to send a letter of opposition to SB 443 to Senator DeLeon. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Reilly).

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hays reported that the Grants Committee met to plan the July 10, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission Awards banquet. He stated that committee members have selected the theme and venue, reviewed catering options, and reviewed nominations for individuals, organizations, and staff.

Chairperson Mayeda stated that the Committee also approved Financial and Narrative reports of grant recipients and that they will be presented at the June Commission meeting for approval.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

No report.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for April 2013 was included in agenda packets. He announced that the Sea Aire Park building has reopened following irrigation repairs. He stated that the Department has contracted with a new software vendor that will be used for facility bookings, tracking enrollments, and on-line registration. He noted that they are unable to transfer data from the old system to the new one and that people will need to reenroll. He distributed brochures for the Home Improvement Program and Park Bench Dedication Program, noting that they have received their first application for a dedication.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for April 2013 was included in attachments. He reported that the sports court resurfacing, Wilson Park Pond re-piping, and Sea Aire Golf Course irrigation projects are complete. He stated that the next big project is the Columbia Park Soccer Field Renovation project, with a pre-construction meeting on May 9 and kickoff on May 20.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette distributed the Recreation Services Division Report for April 2013.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Commissioner Love offered her regrets that she is unable to attend the Armed Forces Day Parade.

11B. Chairperson Mayeda stated that he enjoyed attending the Beat the Odds scholarship banquet and congratulated Youth Council members for putting on such an excellent event.

11C. Chairperson Mayeda announced the Police Memorial ceremony on May 15 at Toyota Meeting Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:50 p.m., Commissioner Baxter moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Love seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Mayeda so ordered.

<i>Approved as submitted June 12, 21013 Sue Herbers, CMC City Clerk</i>
